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COUNTERFEIT MEDICINE REPORT

Arizona, August – December 2022

By December 27, 2022 the DEA had seized [over 22 million fentanyl pills in Arizona](#), and was projecting 25 million for the year – twice the volume of pills seized in 2021. Inside this tidal wave, the media also reported [a pill press seizure](#), an [infant death](#), and the [sentencing of a Tucson man for selling fentanyl pills](#) that killed someone in 2019. U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported finding [Yaba pills](#), which contain methamphetamine and caffeine, for the first time.

In the past, the [FDA warned](#) 107 Arizona medical practices to [stop buying black market medicines](#), including Botox and cancer treatments, from unlicensed distributors that had been caught selling counterfeits—including fake Avastin that reached Chandler resident Betty Hunter in 2011. In 2016, [23 yerberias in Phoenix, Chandler and Mesa](#) were shuttered for selling fake medicine made with arsenic, boric acid and industrial solvents.

Recent Incidents

December 2022:

Fentanyl pills, Nogales Port of Entry: Louis Casiano, “[Arizona border officers find more than 700,000 fentanyl pills hidden in train arriving from Mexico](#),” *Fox News*, December 22, 2022; “[Arizona border officers seize 1.5 million fentanyl pills over past week](#),” *Fox News*, December 14, 2022.

Yaba pills, Nogales Port of Entry: Chorus Nylander, “[N4T investigators: CBP comes across drug never documented on southwest border](#),” *News 4 Tucson*, December 7, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Tolleson: “[MCSO bust yields \\$600,000 in drugs, including 70,000 fentanyl pills in Tolleson](#),” *ABC 15*, December 14, 2022.

November 2022:

Fentanyl pills, Mesa: Alexis Cortez, “[Biggest Drug bust in Mesa PD history: 700k+ fentanyl pills, 15 lbs of hard drugs found](#),” *Arizona’s Family*, November 17, 2022.

October 2022:

Sentencing, Tucson: “[Tucson man sentenced to 17 years for distributing fentanyl resulting in death](#),” U.S. Department of Justice, October 5, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Yuma: “[Arizona troopers find 68 pounds of fentanyl inside fuel tank during i-8 traffic stop](#),” *Fox 10 Phoenix*, October 7, 2022.

Scan the QR CODE or go to <https://safedr ug/Arizona-page> for more information about counterfeit medicine incidents in Arizona.



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September 2022:

Fentanyl pills and pill press, Cottonwood: Brent Corrado, "[K-9 helps Cottonwood Police find 100k fentanyl pills during traffic stop: suspect arrested](#)," *Fox 10 Phoenix*, September 29, 2022; "[PANT detectives arrest two men in Cottonwood on multiple drug and weapon charges](#)," *KAFF News*, September 20, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Phoenix: Peter Valencia, "[8 million fentanyl pills seized in Phoenix Area during nationwide operation](#)," *Arizona's Family*, September 28, 2022; Kenneth Wong, "[Over 1 million fentanyl pills seized by officers: single largest bust in Phoenix Police's history](#)," *Fox 10 Phoenix*, September 23, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Nogales Port of Entry: "[Approximately 400,000 fentanyl pills, 152 pounds of meth seized at Arizona border over the weekend](#)," *Big Country News*, September 19, 2022; Julia Musto, "[Border officers in Arizona find 150K rainbow fentanyl pills in gas tank, spare tire in separate busts](#)," *Fox News*, September 16, 2022

Fentanyl pills, San Luis Port of Entry: "[Man indicted for smuggling 71 pounds of fentanyl pills across the US-Mexico border](#)," U.S. Department of Justice, November 9, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Avondale: "[Three individuals charged for distributing over 400,000 fentanyl pills, 25 pounds of methamphetamine following HSI Nogales investigation](#)," Department of Justice, October 20, 2022.

August 2022:

Fentanyl pills, Phoenix: "[Two women with over 850,000 fentanyl pills indicted](#)," Maricopa County Attorney's Office, September 19, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Chandler: "[150,000 fentanyl pills seized in Chandler drug bust, DPS says](#)," *Fox 10 Phoenix*, August 16, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Nogales Port of Entry: "[CBP nabs more than 1.5 million fentanyl pills from semi-trailer](#)," *Nogales International*, August 22, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Gila Bend: "[Border Patrol agents seize \\$4.3 million in fentanyl along I-8](#)," U.S. Customs and Border Protection, August 26, 2022.

Death, Scottsdale: Kit Silavong, "[mother called friend instead of 911 after boy overdosed and died. Scottsdale Police say](#)," *Arizona's Family*, November 16, 2022.

Fentanyl pills, Pinal County: "[Woman arrested with over 350,000 fake M30 fentanyl pills](#)," U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, September 30, 2022.

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